

## Senate releases schedule for next election

KENNEDY KALVODA  
News Reporter | @KKalvoda1

The Student Senate finalized the schedule for its 2022-23 academic year elections March 15. Informational meetings for those interested in running will be held by Election Commissioner Sidney Looney from March 21-25. Campaigning will be from March 28-April 1, voting will be from April 4-8 and results will be announced April 12.

The meeting also marked the end of the University's designated fees presentations, specifically a proposal for an increase in student minimum wage before it's voted on at the Board of Regents meeting March 17. Student Affairs Vice President Matt Baker and Vice President of Culture Clarence Green were in attendance to answer any questions from the senators about the proposal, and then the floor was opened for discussion.

Most of the senators agree that the proposal to go forward to the Board of Regents should be the first proposed rate, which would have the student employee wages increase to \$10.30 an hour for the next fiscal year. It would also add a \$4 per credit hour increase for undergraduate students.

"Why not get it done? Tuition is gonna raise anyway, it's going to increase regardless, so why not just be competitive with the pay across the board, that way we can compete with off campus jobs," Vice President Hunter Grantham said.

The vast majority of senators voted to bring this proposal forward to the Board of Regents, with only one senator voting no.

Later in the meeting, Psi Chi requested an appropriation of \$1,141 from the Student Senate. The psychology honor society requested the appropriation in order to attend the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference in Chicago.

At the conference, it would be presenting research on diversity courses and how they affect student perception to psychologists and students who will be in attendance.

"There are a lot of diversity courses like this in psychology, but there's not a lot of research that looks at the effects that these classes have on students," Psi Chi representative Malika Dahal said during the presentation.

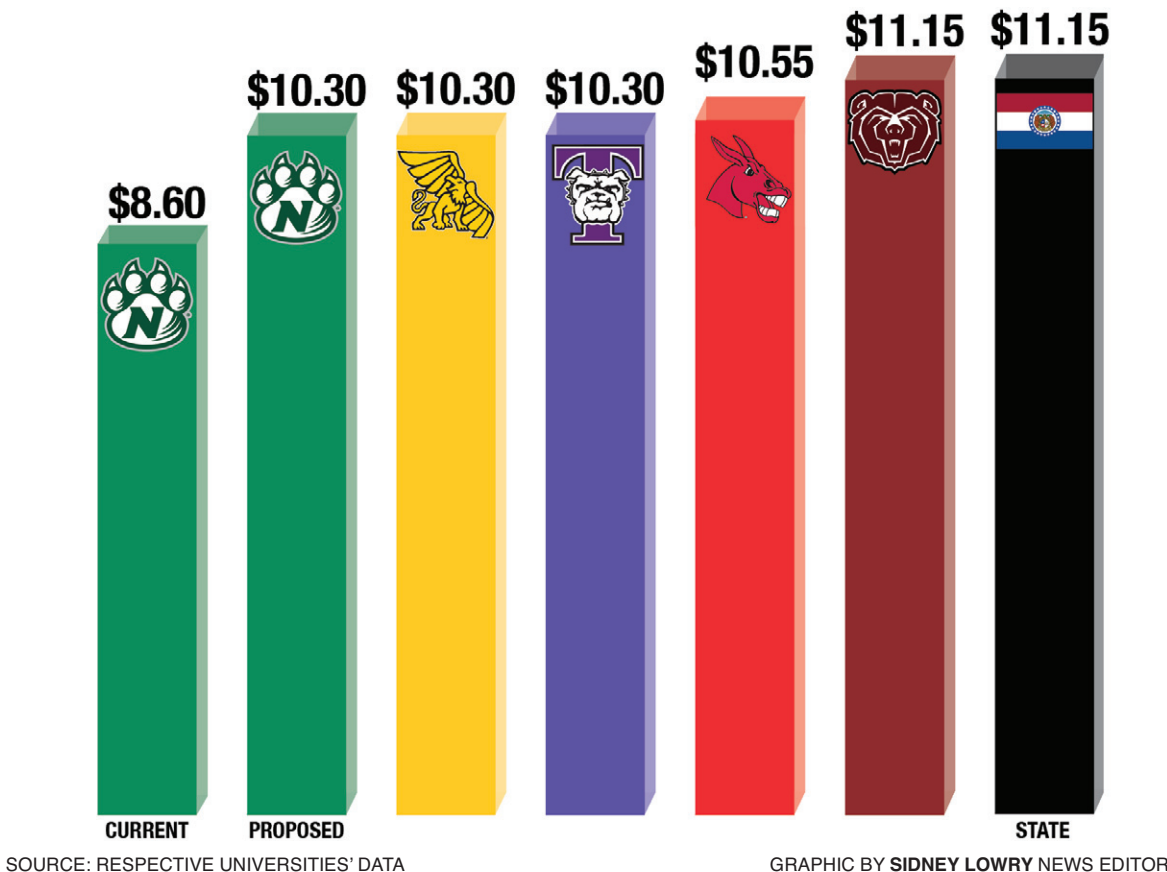
The senators approved the appropriation, which included an amendment that changed the amount to \$1,541 in order to provide an extra cushion for traveling expenses.

The Residence Hall Association Committee announced that it put out a March Madness bracket for Northwest students. There will be top prizes for people who come in first, second and third, along with other small prizes throughout the rest of the month.

SEE SENATE | A6

## Student minimum wage could raise by \$1.70

STUDENT MINIMUM WAGE COMPARED TO OTHER MISSOURI SCHOOLS



SIDNEY LOWRY  
News Editor | @sidney\_lowry

Missouri minimum wage has continued to rise over the past years and will sit at \$12 in 2023, Northwest student minimum wage has remained stagnant at \$8.60 an hour since 2019. That could change with a proposal being brought to the Board of Regents March 17.

Student Senate approved the proposal at its March 15 meeting to raise the student minimum wage to \$10.30 an hour along with a \$4 per credit hour fee increase for students.

If the proposal passes at the Board of Regents meeting, the student minimum wage will be raised by \$1.70 for the 2023 fiscal year starting July 1.

Northwest has some of the lowest-paid student employees compared with universities across the state. Missouri Western State University student employees make a minimum wage of \$10.30 an hour, University of Central Missouri students make \$10.55 an hour, and students at Missouri State University make the current state minimum wage of \$11.15.

So, what pushed the administration to propose a wage increase now? Vice President of Culture Clarence Green said an annual student and super-

visor survey has consistently seen feedback about increasing the student minimum wage.

Not only was feedback important in pushing for a raise, but the second factor it would help is competition. The University has 850 student employees, but Student Employment Coordinator Paula McLain said there are around 100 vacant positions that need to be filled. By raising the minimum wage, there is hope to attract more students to campus positions rather than students finding employment off campus.

"As we look around just our region, we're seeing post COVID-19 that the market is very competitive, and the wage or base raise rates are going up everywhere," Green said. "...We know we have a recruiting issue. We have to address that, and we believe pay is essential to addressing that."

The University has four levels for student employee pay rates. The first level hosts nearly two-thirds of the student employee population and has a minimum wage rate of \$8.60 an hour. The second level houses another third of student employees who make \$8.70 an hour. The final two levels house the remaining employees, with students making \$9 to \$9.50 an hour.

SEE WAGES | A6



SILVIA ALBERTI PHOTOGRAPHER

Director of Maryville Parks and Recreation Jeff Stubblefield helps propose a contract between the city and ABcreative to bring new amenities to Thompson Splash N' Play Park. The new amenities will include a shelter, shade structures, benches, picnic tables, trash cans and more.

## Council approves new construction contracts, permits a liquor license

SIDNEY LOWRY  
News Editor | @sidney\_lowry

In just under an hour, City Council approved four contracts for construction and equipment on projects throughout Maryville, two project agreements and approved a liquor license at its March 14 meeting.

The first item on the Council's agenda for the night was approving a liquor license for Rose Hill Acres Event Center at 105 S. Main St.

A Maryville Municipal Code, in alignment with a state statute, says that no license for the sale of liquor can be granted to a business within 100 feet of any school, church or other building used for religious worship. A 30 by 30 foot section of the event center is located less than 100 feet from First Street Baptist Church.

SEE COUNCIL | A6

Northwest Missouri's oldest and largest independently-owned and operated bank.



NODAWAY VALLEY BANK

Maryville  
660-562-3232

Mound City  
660-442-3131

Savannah  
816-324-3158

St. Joseph  
816-364-5678

Member FDIC



WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH EVENT CALENDAR

Monday

March 21

Wellness Workshop

Students are encouraged to come learn about mental wellness and can create their own button in the J.W. Jones Student Union Meeting Room D.

Tuesday

March 22

Screening and Discussion of the film “Roma”

There will be a screening of “Roma” and a discussion following the movie in the Center Room of The Station.

Wednesday

March 23

Inclusive Language and Pronouns

Students are invited to the J.W. Jones Student Union Tower View Room for multiple sessions on language and pronouns.

Friday

March 25

Influential Womxn’s Awards

Northwest is hosting awards to honor female students, staff and faculty who have had a positive impact on Northwest in the J.W. Jones Student Union Boardroom.

GRAPHIC BY SIDNEY LOWRY NEWS EDITOR

# Women’s organization celebrates history

KENNEDY KALVODA  
News Reporter | @KKalvoda1

Women’s History Month is a month of celebration of prominent women in history, and it reminds people to reflect on how far women have come. One of the student organizations at Northwest that helps students honor and reflect on women’s history is the First Ladies Organization.

FLO is an academic and social support system for women on the Northwest campus. The main goal of the organization is to hold other women accountable and to encourage camaraderie and pride in getting a higher education. It was officially established as an organization on campus in 2015.

FLO Treasurer and Vice President Anaya Walker said she got involved in the organization and eventually took on a leadership role because she enjoyed the connections she made and the push from those around her to accomplish her goals.

“I wanted others to continue to feel all that I got out of FLO and possibly even more,” Walker said.

Although no events being hosted by FLO during Women’s History Month are final yet, Walker said she plans to send quotes from prominent women in history and facts about Women’s History Month through the organization’s group chat, and she encourages general members of the organization to do the same.

Walker said FLO is unique to other organizations on campus, as it caters toward enriching women’s education and preparing them for their careers while also giving members the opportunity to have fun and enjoy some laid-back moments.

FLO and organizations like it play a key role in preserving and discussing women’s history. How it is done isn’t important, Walker said, as long as it is done with good intentions.

“It can be with an inspirational quote from a prominent female figure to watching a documentary on some of our history,” Walker said. “The way we present women’s history doesn’t matter as long as it’s respectful and just that it’s shared to recognize all that women have gone through, done and continue to do. So people can reflect, celebrate and feel empowered.”

Walker encourages people on campus to educate themselves about women’s history consistently, not just through the duration of Women’s History Month.

“You should learn about the history even after the month is over. Same with Black History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month and so on,” Walker said. “Also, it doesn’t have to be all about the struggle. That’s important too and a part of history, but you can enjoy the good times too.”



ADDALYNN BRADBURY PHOTO EDITOR

First Ladies Organization is an academic and social support system for women on the Northwest campus. Treasurer and Vice President Anaya Walker is involved in the organization and eventually took on a leadership role because she enjoyed the connections she made and the push from those around her to accomplish her goals.



ADDALYNN BRADBURY PHOTO EDITOR

After a three-month long break, the Nodaway County Historical Society Museum has opened up for 2022 for 1-4 p.m. operating hours. The museum closes its doors every winter due to low attendance and to save money on heating bills.

## Historical Society Museum reopens, hosts Pi Day event

JAKE PRATER  
News Reporter | @JakobLPraeter

The Nodaway County Historical Society Museum has opened up for 2022 after a nearly three-month long break during the winter.

The Nodaway County Historical Society opened the museum’s doors March 1 and celebrated with a Pi Day fundraiser March 14, serving free slices of pie and scoops of ice cream. Guests could read displays on tables on the history of pie, starting with the Ancient Egyptian’s meat pie recipe.

Since its founding in 1944, the Historical Society has expanded through the years and opened the museum in 1994. This museum shows artifacts such as mammoth tusks found in nearby rivers and an Iraq War military uniform worn by a person from Nodaway County.

The museum closes its doors

every winter due to low attendance and to save money on heating bills. The Historical Society is not a tax supported organization and relies completely on donations.

“We have an organization and a board, and the board consists of members that decide policy and procedure and pay the bills,” volunteer Margaret Kelley said. “So we have to do fundraisers like this to make money to pay bills.”

The Historical Society has been able to keep the museum up and running through fundraiser donations.

“People are really generous here when it comes right down to it,” Kelley said.

The most recent support for the museum came in the form of a \$2,500 grant from Tenaska Clear Creek Energy Center, an energy company with windmills in Maryville.

This will be the first year since 2019 in which the museum will be open for its full schedule. The museum closed its doors due to COVID-19 restrictions in March 2020 and did not open until over a year later in July 2021.

Once the Historical Society realized that it would be closed for more than the expected two weeks that was projected, the society took advantage of the free time and remodeled the museum’s interior, moving exhibits around on all three floors and painting the walls and ceiling of the museum.

Carolyn Fisher, corresponding secretary of the Historical Society, described 2021 as a slow year.

“I think people were afraid,” Fisher said. “Just when we thought it was going back to normal, another variant came up.”

Kelley said that with a full year ahead of them, they are

ready to go. The Historical Society has already released a schedule of 2022 museum events and fundraisers.

Some are special programs at the museum, such as a program about Nat Sisson, a Maryville resident who was a Union soldier in the Civil War, a program about the history of Kentucky Derby winning horses native to Nodaway County, and an event on early Black history in Nodaway County. Fundraisers for 2022 include tea in the newly restored Caleb Burns house, a barbecue dinner and rodeo exhibit, and an Oktoberfest dinner.

Although the museum is open again, there is still more remodeling to be done.

“When I walked in today, I was surprised,” Kelley said. “Everything is new and different, and we’re still working on it.”



★★★ELECTION 2022

# Coffelt seeks open school board seat

NATHAN ENGLISH  
Managing Editor | @nathan\_3nglish

Mitch Coffelt is no stranger to running. His journeys on foot throughout town as a member of the running group at The Bridge Church in Maryville give Coffelt an opportunity to talk and share life with others in his church, an opportunity for him to listen and learn how he can serve. For those same reasons, Coffelt has decided to run for something else — one of the open seats on the Maryville R-II School Board.

“It’s probably been a pretty thankless job to be a school board member the last couple of years. So, I just want to make sure that somebody that cared was representing them,” Coffelt said.

Coffelt describes himself first as a father. His two children, Mallory and Mak, have been in the district since preschool. When he’s not at work, he’s often with them, coaching baseball or watching soccer.

Coffelt has lived in the area most of his life. Originally from Ravenwood, Missouri, he left for college at Southwestern Community College in Creston, Iowa, before moving to Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. Now, he’s a mortgage loan officer at U.S. Bank in Maryville.

He likes to keep busy; the loan officer is also a member of the Maryville Parks and Recreation Board, The Bridge Church and the St. Joseph Chamber Circle of Influence.

Coffelt hasn’t entered the race with an “agenda,” other than to listen and evaluate what’s best for everyone, he said. His goal is to “do what’s right for all the students and all the faculty, all the staff.”

For Coffelt, part of doing what’s right would be attracting new, quality applicants to the district. Teaching, as with many other professions, saw a significant decline in its workforce during the pandemic, with many schools across the state and country struggling to fill positions.

“I think in the past they used to have a lot more applicants, a lot more people were interested in teaching. Just when they got out of college, that’s what a lot of them wanted to do. I’m not sure that’s the case anymore,” Coffelt said.

To help solve the applicant issue, and others facing the Board, Coffelt said he would use his “big shoulders.”

The shoulders are not his description of the physical attributes connecting his arms to his torso, but more so a communication skill he feels he excels in. Listening is important to Coffelt. It would be his primary goal, if elected, to listen to what those in the community and at the school have to say — to listen to, for example, other teachers’ suggestions on how best to attract quality applicants.

“As a teacher, administrator or staff, you’re just (in) a pretty thankless job too,” Coffelt said.

The candidate said he wants to hear from district staff on how to create a positive environment, how the School Board could help in that area.

“Good teachers know other good teachers...and they want to work with good teachers,” Coffelt said.

In the same vein, local districts have been plagued by a lack of substitutes, with many turning to education majors at Northwest to fill the vacant slots.

Missouri loosened restrictions for substitute restrictions in an effort to bring more potential people into the fold, but the problem is still ever-present.

To combat the issue, Coffelt suggested working in harmony with other schools districts in the area to help create a pool of substitutes everyone would be able to tap into.

“For the most part, we’re under 30 minutes from a lot of school districts, and maybe you can use everybody’s subs and not have to just rely on your subs,” Coffelt said.

As with any decision, Coffelt said, he would want input from others in the district and community to help give well-rounded approaches to issues.

“When you’re in the school board meeting setting, I think you can listen to other people’s views. (You can) put yourself in their shoes and, you know, come to an agreement, come to a positive forward movement,” Coffelt said.

The skill has already helped him serve on the MPR Board, Coffelt’s friend Adam Teale said. Teale, also a Board member, noted Coffelt’s listening skills have helped him ask questions and be efficient with time on the Board.

“It’s not about him, and it’s not about pounding his chest and doing ‘Hey, look what I got done,’” Teale said. “He’s there wanting to make sure... that the taxpayer dollars are being maximized on whatever board he serves on.”

Teale is also in the church running group with Coffelt; it was on a run together at 5 a.m. on 19th Street when Coffelt told Teale he was going to throw his hat in the ring for a School Board seat. He said he knew Coffelt would make a good candidate and that he wasn’t in it for the wrong reasons.

“It’s truly a volunteer position. There are not many rewards that come from it,” Teale said with a chuckle.

**COVID-19**

With COVID-19 having shaped and still shaping the way Maryville R-II operates, Coffelt said it will be important to have plans in place, something nobody could have been prepared for prior to the virus reaching Maryville in March 2020.

“It’s a lot easier to look back, right?” Coffelt said.

Coffelt said it’s important to have guidelines and stick to them in regards to COVID-19, making sure the Board wouldn’t be scrambling to make decisions with the virus.

**Four-Day Week**

The pandemic’s hindrance of numerous facets of education forced some local school boards to reduce the number of school days per week from five to four. It’s an issue not yet on the burner for Maryville schools, but it could be soon due to declines in education funding and the national teaching shortage.

Coffelt said he doesn’t know if Maryville would reach that point, but he would look at the problem as a broad one. Would reducing the number of days help save money? Would it affect students’ ability to learn? Would it hurt or help in attracting and retaining teachers?

**Coffelt in Action**

Chad Gastler, a friend and former coworker of Coffelt’s, pointed to the father of two’s honesty and team mentality as qualities that make him a good candidate. Gastler has seen Coffelt in action, whether it be when they used to work together in sales or when they play together in fastpitch softball or rec basketball.

“He’s a competitive guy that’s gonna put his head down and work,” Gastler said.

Both Gastler and Teale pointed to his financial experience; his career in sales and banking could prove invaluable to any board using public funds.

Coffelt is one of three candidates running for Maryville R-II School Board’s two open seats.

For the School Board hopeful, everything boils down to one thing, and it’s what he wants people to know before filling out a ballot.

“I’m just here for the kids’ best interest,” Coffelt said.

## CANDIDATES "ON THE ISSUES"

**Four-day weeks**  
If the issue ever does come up for Maryville R-II School Board, Coffelt would want to look at the problem in a broader sense.

**COVID-19**  
Coffelt wants to make sure guidelines are in place for students and staff to avoid making important decisions on the fly. He would like to see a plan in place using prior knowledge of the virus.



"I'm just here  
for the kids' best  
interest,"  
  
- MITCH COFFELT  
MARYVILLE R-II SCHOOL  
BOARD CANDIDATE

NATHAN ENGLISH MANAGING EDITOR  
Mitch Coffelt sits at a table in Scooter's March 8. Coffelt is running for a seat on the Maryville R-II School Board.

## Worship in Maryville


**fbc**  
First Baptist Church of Maryville  
**Join Us On Sundays**  
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.  
Worship gathering - 10:45 a.m.  
**Dale Baker, Pastor**  
Phone - (660)562-2616  
Email - fbcmaryvillemo@gmail.com  
Website - www.fbcmaryville.com  
121 E. Jenkins St. Maryville, MO 64468

**First Christian Church**  
Disciples of Christ  
  
Sundays:  
9 a.m. Discipleship Classes  
10:30 a.m. Worship onsite  
livestreamed on our facebook page  
Facebook.com/FFCMaryvilleMo  
201 West Third, Maryville  
660.582.4101  
Campus contact: Deena Poynter  
660.541.1336  
[www.fccmaryvillemo.com](http://www.fccmaryvillemo.com)  
fccmaryvillemo@gmail.com

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Everyone Is Welcome Here  
  
WWW.MARYVILLEFUMC.ORG EMAIL: PASTORKIM@MARYVILLEFUMC.ORG  
YOUTUBE: MARYVILLE FUMC FACEBOOK: FUMCMARYVILLE  
**Join us for worship  
Sundays at 9 and 11 am**  
660-582-4821  
CORNERS OF 1ST & MAIN, MARYVILLE, MO

**SUNDAYS**  
**9 AND 10:30**  
1122 S. MAIN STREET  
THEBRIDGEMARYVILLE.COM  
THE BRIDGE | WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

**ST. GREGORY'S  
CATHOLIC  
CHURCH**  
333 South Davis Street  
Maryville, MO 64468  
**Mass times:**  
Saturday- 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday- 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.  
Monday- 5:30 p.m.  
Tuesday- 12:00 p.m.  
Wednesday-Friday- 8 a.m.  
Reconciliations by appointment.  
[www.stgregorysmaryville.org](http://www.stgregorysmaryville.org)

The monks of Conception Abbey invite you to join them for prayer, just 20 miles east of Maryville. People of all faiths are always welcome.  
For a complete listing of our daily prayer schedule, visit [www.conceptionabbey.org/guests](http://www.conceptionabbey.org/guests).  
**CONCEPTION**  
Living the Benedictine Tradition


**ADVERTISE YOUR CHURCH**  
  
S536943@NWMISSOURI.EDU



# Ferluknat Farm

## The Nifty Gifty Fabric Fun Store!

The logo for William Coy's Farm to Table Restaurant is displayed within a rounded rectangular frame. The name "William Coy's" is written in a large, elegant, cursive script, with a small sprig of wheat or grain positioned above the letter "y". Below the name, the words "FARM TO TABLE RESTAURANT" are written in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font. To the left of the restaurant name, the address "1 Fall Drive" and phone number "(660) 562-4644" are listed. To the right, the operating hours are provided: "Lunch Tue-Fri 11am-3pm", "Happy Hour Tues-Sat 3pm-6pm", and "Dinner Tues-Thurs 5pm-9pm Fri & Sat 5pm-10pm".



**Northwest Missouri's  
Oldest and Largest Independently  
Owned and Operated Bank**

[www.NVB.com](http://www.NVB.com)

**Nodaway Valley Bank**

*The Student Body*  
SCREEN PRINTING & EMBROIDERY  
**NWBEARCATNATION.COM**  
221 W. 4TH STREET    MARYVILLE, MISSOURI    660.582.8889  
OFFICIAL FAN GEAR FOR BEARCAT NATION  
SINCE 1932








**Red Rock Loft**  
and other locations  
available!

(660) 582-8255  
213 N Main St. Maryville, MO



# Cases fall as endemic classification looms

**NATHAN ENGLISH**  
Managing Editor | @nathan\_3nglish

As Northwest returns from its spring break, Nodaway County’s proverbial break from COVID-19 continues.

For the first time since May 2021, the county had consecutive days where active cases were below double digits. There are currently three active virus cases, according to available data at the time of publication.

COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and death rates continue to fall throughout March nationwide as the U.S. comes out of the omicron surge that struck at the beginning of the year. The decline has prompted Congress to cut funding for COVID-19 aid for the time being against the wishes of President Joe Biden’s administration.

There have been reports of virus surges in China and the United Kingdom, which health officials are watching.

Nate Blackford, president of Mosaic - Maryville, said he, after talking to Mosaic’s infectious disease doctors, believes COVID-19 could soon be downgraded from a pandemic to an endemic if it continues to lose its grip on the U.S.

“I think it’ll be a big deal in terms of, kind of, individual psyche if that happens,” Black-

ford said.

Endemic classification means the disease will be present indefinitely in a population, but the infection rates are not as severe as a pandemic, Nodaway County Health Administrator Tom Patterson said.

Essentially, COVID-19 could be put on the same plane as the flu if downgraded to endemic status. Many are pointing to the recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announcement reducing mask guidance as a signal endemic status is on the horizon.

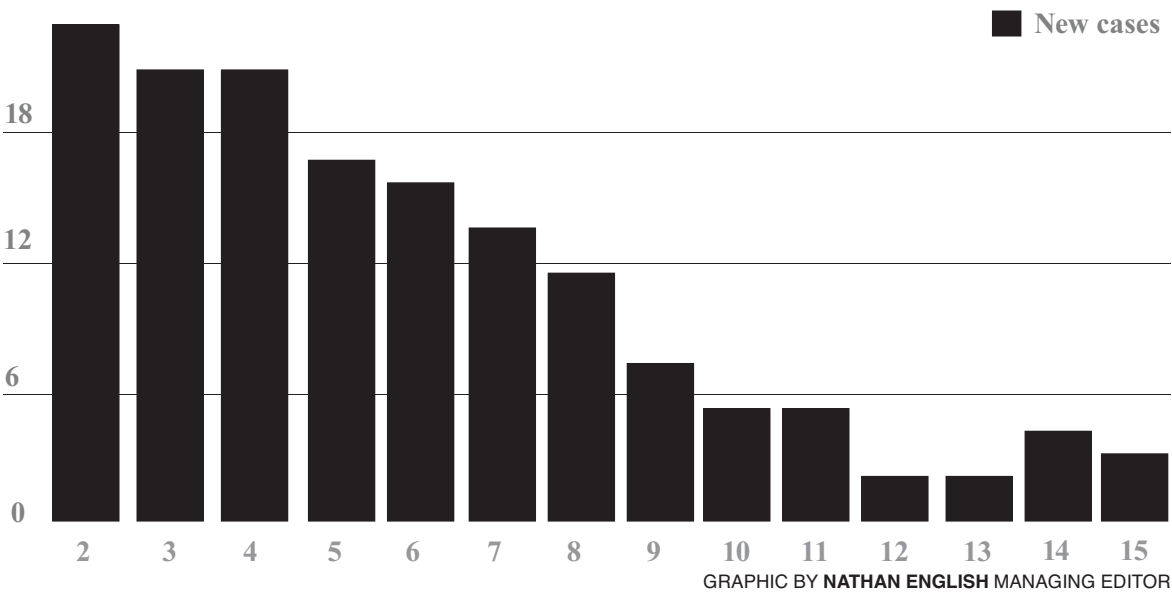
The downgrade could also spark changes for both Mosaic - Maryville and Northwest. Lt. Amanda Cullin, a member of the Crisis Response Team 2, said Northwest would likely reduce existing mitigation measures, such as contact tracing.

“Downgrading (to) an endemic just means something is more manageable,” Patterson said.

“It’ll be completely operational at that point,” Cullin said of the University’s response to a possible status downgrade.

The hospital would likely be one of the last entities to significantly reduce mitigation measures. Currently, Mosaic - Maryville must adhere to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services guidelines for dealing

TRACKING COVID-19: ACTIVE CASES IN COUNTY UP TO MARCH 15



with COVID-19.

“You know, the wheels of government turn a bit slower. And so, I think CMS will probably be the last to react,” Blackford said.

He said he agreed with the first one in, last one out approach of CMS.

Blackford continued to use a phrase he and other local health officials have used during case lulls: “cautious optimism.” He pointed to the low case counts toward the end

of last spring and summer before the delta variant sent the country, and world at large, into a record-breaking surge.

An omicron-delta hybrid now called “deltacron” has been discovered in some parts of the U.S. However, Patterson said, because it’s a hybrid of already seen variants, he’s not overly concerned about its possible effect.

“We’re still in a better boat,” Patterson said.

The virus has been unpredictable, local health officials said, but this time it does feel a little different than previous declines, given the natural immunity of many individuals locally, as well as vaccination rates and vaccine availability. All agreed that only time will be able to tell whether the respite is a mirage or a normal state moving forward.

“I hope that we’re here to stay,” Patterson said.

## SENATE CONTINUED FROM A1

The Civic Service Committee announced there will be a hygiene product drive March 21. There will be a bin to drop off donations outside of the Student Senate Chambers in the J.W. Jones Student Union, and the committee encouraged senators to donate if possible.

The Internal Relations Committee also proposed a change in the Student Senate bylaws. This change would include adding a

graduate student representative to the Student Senate, and it would have the Internal Relations Committee work more closely with the Executive Board on appointing new senators.

The Senate also voted on the official theme for Homecoming in the fall after meeting with the Homecoming Committee to narrow down theme ideas. The theme for next year’s Homecoming will be “Board Games.” More details will be given by the Homecoming Committee and Student Senate as Homecoming gets closer.

## WAGES CONTINUED FROM A1

The new proposal will demolish the different pay levels, having every student employee starting at a flat rate of \$10.30 an hour.

“It’s going to allow for more uniformity across our system,” Green said. “We’ll still have opportunities for folks to have variants in there. It’s going to really strengthen our Career Pathing Program.”

The Career Pathing Program allows students to attend sessions during the school year that will help them develop their performance at their position on campus. If a student completes three of the eight training sessions offered in a semester and passes a performance evaluation, the student is eligible to have a 25-cent raise every year they

complete the required training.

“If the student employees wish to participate in the program moving forward, they can attend the sessions starting in the fall of 2022. And then once they meet all the requirements for the program, they will be eligible to advance in fall 2023,” McLain said.

The second part of the proposal includes a \$4 fee per credit hour that undergraduate students will find on their bills come the fall semester. The current Student Employment Fee for undergraduate students is \$5.85 per credit hour, so this proposal will increase that overall fee to \$9.85.

Vice President of Finance and Administration Stacy Carrick said the University is projecting to have undergraduate students take around 100,000 credit hours, bringing in \$400,000 to cover the increase in the minimum wage.

## CRIME LOG for the week of March 17

### Northwest Missouri State University Police Department March 15

There is a closed investigation for a fire alarm in Bearcat Stadium.

#### March 9

There is an open investigation for identity theft in Wells Hall.

#### March 6

There is an open investigation for a vehicle accident.

#### March 4

There is a closed investigation for a fire alarm in Forest Village Apartments.

#### March 2

There is an open investigation for harassment in Colden Hall.

### Maryville Police Department March 15

There is an ongoing investigation for fraud on the 500 block of Prather Avenue..

#### March 14

There was an accident between **Aashutosh P. Chapagain**, 25, and **Makayla M. Myers**, 21, on the 900 block of South Main Street. **Chapagain** was issued a citation for careless and imprudent driving.

#### March 13

There was an accident between **James C. Pearson**, 63, and **Justyn R. Heath**, 17, on East Jenkins Street and South Charles Street. Heath was issued a citation for failure to yield.

There was an accident between an unknown driver and **Cueva Divaly** on the 300 block of East Third Street.

#### March 9

There is an ongoing investigation for stealing by deceit on the 200 block of West Davidson Square.



SILVIA ALBERTI PHOTOGRAPHER

Rose Hill Acres Event Center owner Rosemary Stiens comes before City Council to ask for approval of a liquor license. The license was separated into two parts, one being for a bar on the north side of the building and the other for the south side event center.

## COUNCIL CONTINUED FROM A1

Rose Hill owner Rosemary Stiens said she spoke to the congregation about the license before coming to the Council for approval expecting some push back, but she found support.

“One thing that we talked about and agreed upon was that if it was going to cause a division in the Church, we all agreed that we’d just say no,” Stiens said.

Stiens said that herself and the church have partnered on many things like sharing a parking lot and snow removal, and that they have been her biggest supporters since she bought the building.

Councilman Tye Parsons said he talked to a member of the church’s board who said there was no opposition to granting the liquor license to Rose Hill.

The Council approved the liquor license in two parts, one for a bar on the south side of the building above her evening decor and tuxedo rental space, and the second part being for the event center on the south side of the building. The event center is intended to be opened by May.

The first contract proposed to the Council was for a new Heliflow motor at the Maryville Wastewater Treatment Plant. While doing routine maintenance on one of the Heliflow motor blowers, PeopleService Inc. notified the city that one of the pieces on the blower had snapped, requiring a complete replacement.

After obtaining quotes for the replacement, it was recommended

that the city approve a contract for a new Heliflow blower with Haynes Equipment Co. for \$24,283.69. This replacement was not included in the budget for the fiscal year, but it was deemed necessary to combat the spring rain that is expected in the upcoming months.

The Council also approved a contract with VF Anderson Builders LLC for the connection of the Torrance Street Trial Extension Project. Anderson was the only bidder on the project, but City Manager Greg McDanel said that was to be expected.

“A lot of the subcontractors who would typically bid on this project are serving a subcontract for VF Anderson on the Main Street Project,” McDanel said. “We expect some of the concrete contractors we would normally see that are going to be working on Main to be really working on this project through VF Anderson.”

This contract will connect six previously built trails from South Walnut Street to South Munn Avenue. The Council approved the contract with VF Anderson not to exceed \$350,458 for the connection of the trails.

The next contract approved by the Council was for the purchase of new equipment for the Thompson Splash N’ Play Park. The contract with ABcreative is to bring in a shelter, four shade structures with splash grass underneath, two picnic tables, six benches and two trash cans.

Jeff Stubblefield, director of Maryville Parks and Recreation, said that during the summertime, the park could see around 1,200 children a day.

The contract is for \$134,383 to in-

stall these amenities, with \$100,000 coming from the city’s American Rescue Plan Act funds and the other \$34,383 to be donated by local civic clubs.

The Council also approved an agreement to provide dispatch services to Worth County Emergency Services.

Police Chief Ron Christian said this won’t be overwhelming for the department since Worth has a fairly low population and a low 911 call rate.

“We were also very excited this happened,” Christian said. “This opportunity came about so quickly, and to be honest with you, if we had to pick one county for a trail run, so to speak, it would be Worth County.”

Later on in the meeting, the Council approved a contract and an agreement for work to be done at the Northwest Missouri Regional Airport.

An agreement between the city and Jviation was approved for the Primary Surface Obstruction Removal Project at the airport. This project will prepare construction plans for the construction of a runway, along with other tasks.

The Council approved a contract with BRS Construction LLC to remove trees within the area the runway. The Missouri Department of Transportation said the removal is a priority for the project to avoid potential risk to pilots.

The contract for the removal is not to exceed \$103,125, and the money will be coming from Non-Primary Entitlement federal funds and is to be completed by the end of this month.



No-knock warrants shouldn't be issued



Amir Locke was asleep when Minneapolis Police Department officers barreled into the living room of his cousin's apartment in search of his cousin, Mekhi Camden Speed, Feb. 2. As Locke started to wake up, most likely disoriented and unaware of what was going on, officers shot him while he was holding the registered gun he decided to sleep with that night.

This isn't the first time a no-knock warrant has led to tragedy. Many instances, including Locke's, have people questioning these warrants and their effects on innocent lives. No-knock warrants time and time again have been proven to be dangerous. They shouldn't be used, especially at the rate they are used right now.

Maryville Police Department Chief Ron Christian said a no-knock warrant should only be used in rare situations in order to reduce the likelihood of harm to everyone involved, and there should be an open discussion about which situations require these warrants. During Christian's time as police chief, the Maryville Police Department has only used a no-knock warrant once.

No-knock warrants have caused injury or led to the death of innocent people before. A no-knock warrant executed in Kentucky led to the murder of Breonna Taylor.

Locke's situation also wasn't the first instance of police violence in Minneapolis. One of the most well-known examples of recent police violence is when an officer held his knee on the neck of George Floyd in 2020. Have Minneapolis officers not learned to be more cautious?

These tragedies aren't coincidences. All of them are connected. They are part of the epidemic of white supremacy and police violence against people of color that we're currently experiencing throughout this country. We need to do better.

We shouldn't call ourselves "the land of the free" while so many Americans are shackled by fear for their lives. Those who take on the responsibility of protecting and serving shouldn't be striking fear in those they're supposed to protect and serve. No one should have to live like that.

What happened to Locke is extremely tragic. He was a beloved son and a law-abiding citizen. His parents will never get to see him again because of the rash actions of police officers.

Imagine losing your life to someone who swore to protect it. It's unacceptable, and the fact that administrative leave is the only punishment that's been given to the officers is ridiculous.

Police shouldn't be allowed to barge into someone's house and open fire. Too many people of color have lost their lives to no-knock warrants, and that needs to end.

The Minneapolis Police Department needs to hold these officers accountable by firing them, and they should be charged with manslaughter. Give Locke the justice he deserves.



ALEXANDRIA MESZ NW MISSOURIAN

OUR VIEW:

Families deserve leniency amidst rising inflation rates

With the world fighting to solve its numerous problems in the past couple of years, everybody is feeling their own variation of pain. Empathy has been vital, and it shouldn't only be felt and shared by common citizens.

There was a time when celebrities were pushing for unity and community to get through a common struggle. Now, the Missouriian Editorial Board is flipping the script and encouraging companies, the Board of Regents and state and local governments to consider how current inflation will affect students and their families.

Recently, gas prices have skyrocketed, and it seems to be the only thing people can talk about. Rightly so, as gas is a large portion of budgeting. Of course, traveling around Maryville doesn't waste too much gas, but students who regularly travel home now have to worry about whether they have money to make that trip or not.

Many people like to point fingers when things get more expensive, but it's a bigger game of cause and effect than people think. For example, Russia's decision to invade Ukraine caused the U.S. to put sanctions on Russia's main source of revenue —

oil. Germany also shut down its oil pipeline in response to the Russian invasion. The effect is that gas prices have gone up.

However, that's the nature of inflation. Prices will continue to fluctuate, and common citizens will have little say in how much they'll have to pay for necessities. The people who are hit the hardest are always those at the middle and bottom.

The University should take into consideration how much students have to pay for outside of school.

Likewise, it would make sense for FAFSA to consider families that are helping their children pay for college and, especially, students who are paying for college themselves. Family income is a large factor in how need-based funds are allocated, but the number of dependents in a family is neglected. In an economy, inflated or not, it can be difficult to pay for college. There should be a little leniency now.

In the business world, companies have seen highs and lows depending on which industry they reside in. Apple, Google and Amazon all enjoyed record profits during the COVID-19 pandemic. As these companies rolled in their

metaphorical piles of money, they were laying off employees and offering minimal wage increases to those they didn't lay off.

The companies have the money to help stave off America's highest inflation rate in more than a decade. Companies aren't required to share their wealth with anybody, but companies should pay their employees what they deserve to be able to live with the increasing prices.

The Editorial Board has already addressed Northwest's minimum wage, but its fees are a separate discussion. On top of tuition, the University piles on fees for numerous random things. Living on campus doesn't make it easier on a student's budgeting. Dorms are more expensive than living off campus, and you're forced to buy a meal plan. This is generally how universities work.

The world is fighting a lot of battles. It seems to be the nature of the world. Americans shouldn't have to fight battles to put gas in their tanks, food on their tables or get an education. Those controlling prices should take the expenses of students and families into consideration in the near future.

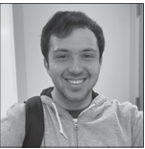
YOUR VIEW:

In what ways has the recent inflation affected you?

MAKENNA LEE  
Sophomore  
Applied Advertising



SAMIR SEDKY  
Junior  
Theater Performance



KIANNA PAPPERT  
Freshman  
Psychology



"Obviously gas prices are a really big way it's affected me. Also, the amount of money I'm making from my job is starting to not offset my expenditures even though I keep lowering them to pay for college and rent.

"I don't know a lot about inflation, but if it's been bad recently, then it hasn't affected me much at all."

"I have a two-bedroom apartment to myself and a part-time job in college, so I haven't been able to put anything in savings for like six months, which is tough."

THE STROLLER:

Your Bearcat loves weather small talk

Here is something you can all stop doing for the rest of all time. It's a really simple thing; it's something that nearly every person living in this warm, wet sock of a state says almost once a week.

You know when you are having a conversation with a person, and have no clue what to talk about, so you talk about the weather? It's a perfectly normal conversation topic when you and the person you are talking to have as

much in common as college tuition and affordable education.

However, if you live in the landlocked hell of a state that is Missouri, one of the people in the conversation will inevitably make the comment about how "you never know with this Missouri weather."

Ha, wow. So, like, totally, like, quirky, of like, Missouri's weather to be so, like, wild and, like, unpredictable. I'm so glad you added that

interesting piece of information to this unenlightening and unpleasant conversation that feels like the verbal equivalent of using Northwest's single-ply toilet paper as a tissue. I hope afterward we can recount that one time it snowed in May in Missouri when I was in middle school. That will be so much fun.

Some of you have no room to comment on how wild the weather is because you don't believe climate change is real — may I suggest practicing

your reading to get it above a first-grade level.

Finally, this is a joke commonly recited on Facebook, which means it has been branded with the proverbial scarlet A for "absolutely not funny or interesting." For you climate change deniers, that was a reference to a book.

*The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missouriian.*

EDITORIAL BOARD	
Kendrick Calfee	Editor-in-Chief
Nathan English	Managing Editor
MaKayla Polak	Design Editor
Sidney Lowry	News Editor
Jon Walker	Sports Editor
Wesley Miller	Assistant Sports Editor
Corbin Smith	Opinion Editor
Addalynn Bradbury	Photo Editor
Mary Grace Rice	Copy Editor
Noah Crowe	Social Media Editor

NEWS STAFF	
Jakob Prater	News Reporter
Kennedy Kalvoda	News Reporter
Maddisyn Gerhardt	Photographer
Silvia Alberti	Photographer
Elizabeth Brightwell	Designer
Ayla Campbell	Designer
Alexandria Mesz	Cartoonist

NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

**CORRECTIONS POLICY**

If you believe information within our publication is incorrect, please email us at northwestmissourian@gmail.com, call our newsroom (660) 562-1224, or leave us a comment on www.nwmissouriannews.com.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

We publish letters from readers for free. All letters become the property of the Northwest Missouriian, which reserves the right to edit them. Letters should include your name, address and telephone number. Letters should be between 150 and 300 words and sent to k.calfee@missourian@gmail.com.

An Independent Student Newspaper since 1914.	
800 University Drive, Wells Hall Maryville, MO, 64468	
DIRECTORS	
Steven Chappell	Student Publications Director
Anna Swink	General Manager/Ad Director
AD STAFF	
Vanessa Weiler	Advertising Manager
Jerilynn Hoover	Ad Design Manager
Sydney Cook	Advertising Designer
Grace Lohman	Advertising Designer
Grace Murphy	Account Executive
Devin Jernigan	Account Executive

CONTACT US	
Newsroom:	(660) 562-1224
Advertising:	(660) 562-1635
Circulation:	(660) 562-1528
Fax:	(660) 562-1521

Your first copy of the Northwest Missouriian is free. Additional copies cost 25¢ each.



UPCOMING  
GAMES

NW MBB

Elite Eight  
March 22-26  
Evansville, Indiana

MHS T&F

Varsity Meet  
10 a.m. March 19  
Hughes Fieldhouse

Varsity Meet  
3:30 p.m. March 23  
Maryville High School

NW SFB

@ St. Cloud State  
10 a.m. March 18  
St. Joseph, Missouri

@ Sioux Falls  
2 p.m. March 18  
St. Joseph, Missouri

@ Winona State  
10 a.m. March 19  
St. Joseph, Missouri

@ Augustana  
2 p.m. March 19  
St. Joseph, Missouri

@ William Jewell (DH)  
2 and 4 p.m. March 23  
Liberty, Missouri

NW BSB

@ Emporia State  
5 p.m. March 18  
Emporia, Kansas

@ Emporia State  
2 p.m. March 19  
Emporia, Kansas

@ Emporia State  
1 p.m. March 20  
Emporia, Kansas

@ Rockhust  
6 p.m. March 22  
Kansas City, Missouri

MHS TEN

vs. Savannah  
4 p.m. March 22  
Frank Grube Courts

NW TEN

vs. McKendree  
March 18  
Frank Grube Courts

vs. Augustana  
2 p.m. March 19  
Frank Grube Courts

SEASON RECAP

To hear the Maryville boys and girls basketball programs reflect on the trials and tribulations of the past year, visit [nwmissourinews.com](http://nwmissourinews.com)



JON WALKER SPORTS EDITOR

Northwest men's basketball junior guard Diego Bernard roars at the court after throwing down a dunk in the Bearcats' 70-55 win over MIAA foe Washburn in the Central Region Tournament semifinals March 13 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

ELITE  
CONTINUED FROM A10

With the Vikings presenting a great deal of length, particularly with 6-foot-8 senior forward Tyler Riemersma, McCollum elected to exchange Jackson's and Alexander's stifling defense for Mascari's ability to successfully let it fly from beyond the arc.

The move allowed the Bearcats to spread out Augustana's defense, which seemingly opened up Northwest's usual offense.

"With Byron, we can set the screens. With Mitch, now you've gotta match up accordingly," McCollum said. "We were just kind of able to expose that and space the floor. He was 0-for-5, and he was plus-20 — because we had space on the floor."

Just when the 'Cats hoped they had seized control, the Vikings made them realize that they were far from doing that.

Augustana opened the second by making four of its first five shots and cutting Northwest's lead to a single possession on multiple occasions.

"What happened was: They got out in transition right out of half on us," said McCollum, who is now 26-5 in NCAA Tournament games. "It got us back on our heels. Once you're back on your heels against this team, it's very difficult, because then you've gotta find ways to score. They're a good basketball team. We knew they'd make a run."

The Bearcats were eventually clinging to a 44-43 lead with 13 minutes and 28 seconds left, and that's when they anchored down on defense. As a group that's struggled to find its identity on offense throughout much of the year, Northwest stepped up on the defensive end.

And that's exactly what the 'Cats, who entered the contest with the country's sixth-best scoring defense (62.4 points per game), did until the final buzzer. Af-

ter Augustana made it a 1-point game, Northwest held the Vikings scoreless for nearly six minutes.

"That's just been what we've done since the first day. Like, we just knew that it was gonna be — offensively, we were gonna have to find ways to score," McCollum said. "It's not as easy as it once was. We've had to really hang our hat, defensively. We've got kids that'll fight and battle, and they did tonight."

Before Augustana went into crisis mode — a strategy over the final two minutes in which the Vikings started to foul on every one of the Bearcats' possessions — Northwest sophomore forward Luke Waters nailed a 3-pointer to give the 'Cats a 60-47 lead.

It served as the nail in the Vikings' coffin, and it brought their once-rabid fans and that once-rambunctious venue to a standstill. It did the exact opposite for Northwest, though.

"That was a big shot," McCollum said of Waters, who finished with 8 points and five rebounds. "We call them loud shots. That was a loud shot."

Now the 'Cats will make the seven-hour trek to southwestern Indiana, the site where Hudgins has helped the program win back-to-back national titles. Should they be able to pull off a third in as many seasons, they'd become the first team to do so in Division II history.

Hudgins, sitting directly to the left of McCollum, could be sure of one more thing following the 14-point triumph: He'll play the final game of his Northwest career at the very place he's always wanted it to. He's always wanted to go out on top, and he'll have the opportunity to do that March 22, when the 'Cats start their final three-game run toward the program's fourth national title in five seasons.

"We've worked hard all year. It's been tough at times, but just keep on going," Hudgins said. "We've just been fighting, and I'm just excited to get to Evansville."

Loe nabs 700th career win in rout of Lions

LANDEN CRABTREE  
Missourian Reporter I @NWMSports

Northwest baseball coach Darin Loe earned his 700th career win after the Bearcats beat MIAA foe Missouri Southern 6-3 March 5, becoming just one of 24 active Division II coaches to reach the milestone.

"It was a big day, obviously. It's a good number to achieve — get that one out of the way — kind of brings you back to all the players that got you to that point," Loe said. "Had some great teams over the years and

a special group of guys to enjoy it with."

"It was a good win. It was the last game of the series — wanted to give a little more that game as a team to try and get that win for him," sophomore relief pitcher Phil Brennaman said.

Despite Loe getting his 700th win, the Bearcats have struggled in the beginning of conference play, carrying a record of 1-9 in the MIAA out of spring break. The 'Cats played the University of Mary March 16, but the contest was not fin-

ished in time for publication.

The Bearcats are currently on a four-game losing streak after being swept by Pittsburg State and losing to Washburn 10-1. Pitt is the second team to sweep the Bearcats during conference play — Central Missouri did it in the first series of the conference schedule Feb. 26-28.

Northwest lost two of the three games in the Pitt series by one run in scores of 6-5 and 9-8, respectively.

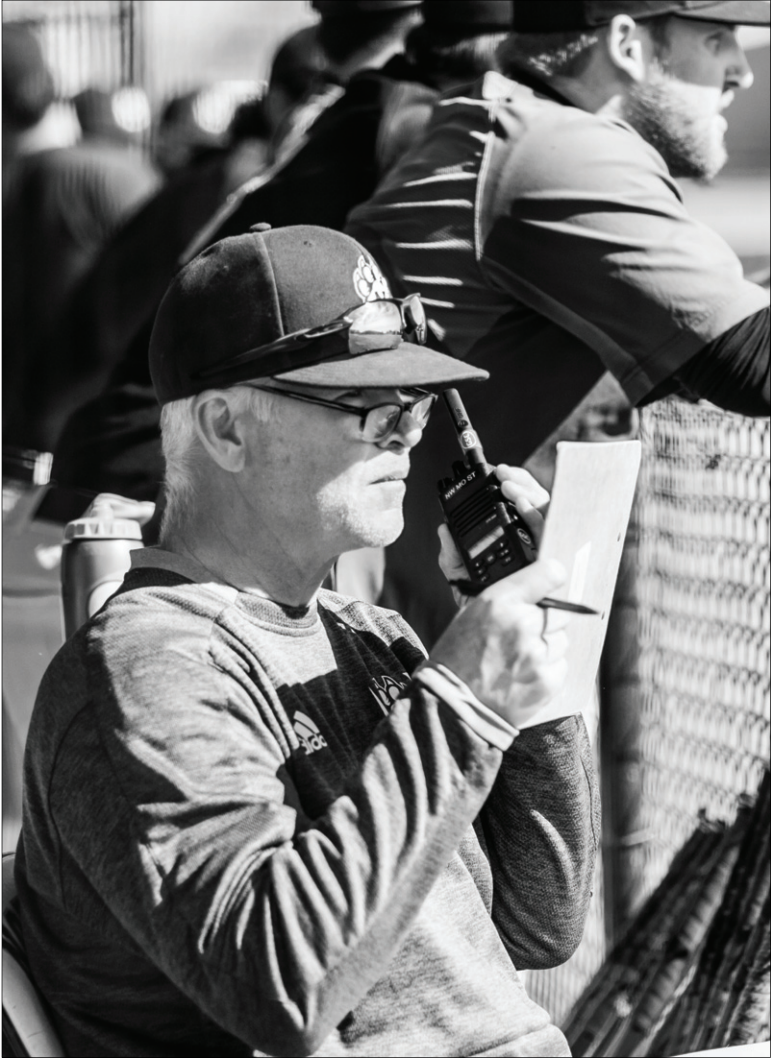
"Going into the weekend against Emporia, we'll continue to get good pitching," Loe said. "I think on the weekends we have continued to have good pitching, continued to swing the bats — thought we swung the bats well this past weekend — gain some confidence at the plate and put it together for these next few games."

The Bearcats are currently 5-15, which is their worst record through a 20-game stretch since 2013. Northwest is currently at the bottom of the conference at 1-9 after losses to three of the top four teams in conference.

The 'Cats will look to rebound from this slow start in their non-conference home game.

"The morale has been kind of low coming off last season," Brennaman said. "We had higher expectations for this year, and the slow start has hurt the morale. But we are having team meetings and just trying to stay positive and get back on the winning side of things."

Northwest's series against Emporia will be its first series



ADDALYNN BRADBURY PHOTO EDITOR

Northwest baseball coach Darin Loe watches from his bucket in the Bearcat dugout, watching the Bearcats in their triple header against Central Missouri.

against a team without a winning record in the league.

"I think our guys are in great shape. They understand we played a tough schedule in the early part of our season and

haven't had a lot of chances to get outdoors and work on things we needed to," Loe said. "Think the guys are working hard and are in a good mindset — just need to put the talent together."

Visit  
**Dr. Dallas Fitzgerald**  
at the  
**Walmart Vision Center**  
*18 years at this location!*

- Eye-health exams as low as \$70
- Contact lens fitting of all major brands
- Many insurance plans accepted

1605 S Main St  
Maryville, MO  
660.562.0215

**Pitzenberger  
Body Shop**

660.582.4599

2711 South Mulberry

"When quality counts!"



# Relay squad sets new program mark at national meet

DAVID DERKS  
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

Coach Brandon Masters said the national championships are reserved for the best moments, and the Bearcat women’s 4x400-meter quartet gave one.

The Northwest track and field women’s 4x400-meter relay team ran away with the program record at the NCAA Division II Indoor Track & Field Championships March 11-12 in Pittsburg, Kansas.

Sophomore Tiffany Hughey, freshman Chloe Saenz, redshirt freshman Jaedy Commins and redshirt freshman Bailey Blake beat their previous record by 35-hundredths of a second with a time of 3 minutes, 44 seconds and 49 milliseconds, which notched a sixth-place finish.

“The 4x400 was awesome,” Masters said. “They ran their best time ever — a school record. Two of them have never been to the national championship, so to see that they went and performed well... was pretty amazing. Across the board, all of the ladies either had (personal records) in their split or were very close.”

Their sixth-place finish earned the four an All-American selection, and the women’s team finished the day with seven points, putting the Bearcats at 25th in the final team standings at the championships.

“It was very exciting for my first time,

as a freshman, to compete at nationals,” Saenz said. “It’s definitely a good experience, too, to get under your belt.”

“It was really exciting, and it was a good opportunity to grow for next year and for the next meets as well,” Commins said.

While the players enjoyed their personal performances, they also enjoyed the chance to watch other athletes from across the nation.

Like his players, Masters said the whole championship was fun and that it was awesome to watch great athletes run.

“It was one of the best national championship meets I’ve ever been at, as far as strength of event. Many national meet records fell; I can’t even count them,” Masters said.

Hughey placed fifth in the 400-meter dash with a time of 55.67, Blake placed 10th in the 800-meter dash with a time of 2:10.50, and sophomore Jada Shanklin placed fifth in the high jump with a jump of 1.76 meters.

Commins said she prepared for the national championships just like a normal meet and did everything in her power to not let the importance of the meet give her too many nerves.

“I felt like we enjoyed the time. I felt like we competed hard, and I felt like the experience was really good for the kids — especially for those who have never been before,” Masters said.

Now that the indoor track and field



ADDALYNN BRADBURY PHOTO EDITOR

Sophomore Tiffany Hughey runs at the MIAA Indoor Championships Feb. 26. Hughey, freshman Chloe Saenz, and redshirt freshmen Jaedy Commins and Bailey Blake recently set the program record in the women’s 4x400-meter relay at NCAA Division II Indoor Championships March 11-12.

season is over, the team must look toward the outdoor season.

The outdoor season starts soon, and Masters said the next three to four weeks of hard training and competing will be important.

“There will be some (muscle) soreness, and it’s hard,” Masters said. “Numbers won’t be what we want them to be — it’s not about that right now. It’s about training for that next level, so then we can get them to run even faster outdoors when it counts. And that’s MIAA for most and national championships for some.”

Masters said some athletes will be tasked with participating in events they are new to.

For Commins and Saenz, that possibility might just be a reality.

While both women could be adding a race to their outdoor events — Commins adding the 400-meter hurdles and Saenz adding the 100-meter dash — both have the same goal in mind.

“I definitely want to get faster,” Saenz said. “I want to keep improving rather than staying the same.”

The Northwest outdoor track and field team will kick their season off at Emporia State with the ESU Spring Invite March 18 in Emporia, Kansas, before traveling back to Emporia March 24-26 for the ESU Relays.



ADDALYNN BRADBURY PHOTO EDITOR

Northwest women’s basketball senior guard Mallory McConkey tries to find an open teammate during the Bearcats’ 77-65 win to Emporia State Feb. 21. With the 2021-22 campaign over for Northwest, the ‘Cats finish with an overall record of 17-12.

## Women’s hoops looks back on decade-best year

WESLEY MILLER  
Asst. Sports Editor | @wesleymiller360

As the outside temperatures begin to rise and winter comes to a close, another season has already met its end — Northwest women’s basketball.

The Bearcats reached the MIAA Tournament quarterfinals before their season ended at the hands of Nebraska-Kearney. With the 2021-22 campaign over for Northwest, the ‘Cats finish with an overall record of 17-12.

“We were able to check some boxes this year,” coach Austin Meyer said.

Meyer and company did make achievements throughout the 2021-22 slate, but like winter itself, the Bearcats’ season was long and sometimes rough.

The preseason started with Northwest tabbed to finish ninth in the MIAA in a preseason media and coaches poll.

Senior guard Mallory McConkey said polls were in the back of the players’ minds.

“I knew just that with the group we had returning and after the first few days of seeing the incoming freshman that we were gonna do pretty good this season,” McConkey said.

The regular season, though, did not start off on a good note for the ‘Cats. Their first game ended in a loss after a 21-point comeback by Southwest Minnesota State.

If there was any pain after that loss for the team, it soon went away.

“No one was gonna give up,” McConkey said. “We still come back and fight the next game.”

Northwest did that, but instead of just the next game, the Bearcats did it for the next seven, winning all of them. Northwest had its best start since the 2006-07 squad started the season 8-1.

The win streak ended Dec. 13

against MIAA powerhouse Central Missouri in Warrensburg.

Outside of the next game against McKendree, a fight to the end was an effective way to describe Northwest’s next eight games, with all of them being decided by 10 points or less.

Northwest won the first three close games against Missouri Western, Missouri Southern and Pitt State — ending a 13-game losing skid to the Gorillas.

Northwest dropped the next three contests to then-No. 2 Fort Hays State, then-No. 16 Nebraska-Kearney and Washburn.

The trend of threes continued. The Bearcats rattled off three consecutive wins, but that was just a pretense for what was coming next.

For the final nine games of the regular season, Northwest went just 3-6.

“We didn’t close out enough games, and we didn’t win enough of those close games,” Meyer said.

That remained true into the team’s first postseason game with

a 5-point loss to Kearney in the MIAA Tournament quarterfinals.

The Bearcats still had accomplishments, though.

With 17 overall wins, 12 of them being conference wins, Northwest earned the most wins and conference wins since the 2010-11 season.

The Bearcats were also able to end longtime losing streaks to Pitt State and Emporia State, both 13-game skids. Additionally, they ended the season with the No. 2 scoring defense in the MIAA.

“We showed that we can compete in this league,” Meyer said.

Now as the seasons change for sports and the rest of the world, Meyer is on a new mission. He and the rest of the team, Meyer said, are not satisfied.

“I feel like our kids compete and play hard every single game, which shows when you’re in every single game and not getting blown out,” Meyer said. “If we’re gonna take that next step, we have to get better offensively, and we got to be able to score the ball better. No doubt.”

The team will rely on what the players have learned through this year of experience in order to improve in the areas that need it, such as offense.

“At a certain point, the season is gonna ask what you did over the summer, and we’ll be able to tell come preseason who put the work in,” Meyer said.

“I expect them to get better every year,” McConkey said. “I know everyone has high expectations for themselves, and I only see things going up from here.”

17

Most overall wins since the 2010-11 season

SOCIAL WELFARE BOARD'S  
WESTSIDE CLINIC

Patee Market  
904 South 10th St. Suite A  
St. Joseph, Mo. 64503  
Phone: 816-344-5233

Scan to learn about our  
Health Services.  
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:00-4:30

Education is the first step toward a future of possible

U.S. Bank is proud to support the Bearcats.

Maryville North Branch  
120 S. Main St. | Maryville, MO 64468  
660.582.7159

Member FDIC. ©2021 U.S. Bank 473902c 01/21

Shell's Service

24 Hour: Towing • Lockouts • Jumpstarts  
The only one stop shop for all your automotive needs.

Tires  
Batteries  
Tune-Ups  
Alternatives  
Engines

985 S. Main Maryville

Brakes  
Suspension  
Oil Changes  
Transmissions  
Air Conditioning

Day 660-582-4711 Serving Maryville since 1958 Night 660-582-1692

Get your FREE mascot debit card today!

660-582-7454  
GoCitizens.bank  
Member FDIC



ELITE AGAIN.



Northwest junior guard Trevor Hudgins hoists the Central Region title after the Bearcats' 70-56 win over Augustana March 15 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

**JON WALKER**  
Sports Editor | @ByJonWalker

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. — Northwest men's basketball guard Trevor Hudgins was sure of one thing Tuesday night following a matchup with Augustana in the title game of the Central Region Tournament.

Since the 'Cats punctuation on their last season, Hudgins has made everyone aware this is his farewell tour donning the green and white. The fifth-year junior redshirted his first year in Maryville, and he'll have one last season of eligibility remaining due to COVID-19, but he currently has no intentions on using it.

And while he's ready to strive for a chance in the NBA, sitting in a small room on the northwestern side of the Sanford Pentagon in the aftermath of the third-seeded Bearcats' 70-56 win over the top-seeded Vikings, he was sure he wasn't ready to bid adieu to Northwest from that very seat in Sioux Falls.

"No," Hudgins said. "No chance."

The back-to-back-to-back MIAA Player of the Year won't have to leave any closing remarks just yet, and it's mostly because he went 7-for-9 from beyond the arc and used a game-high 27 points to help the Bearcats' punch their ticket to a third straight Elite Eight.

The Hudgins-led 'Cats walked into a hostile environment, an arena filled with 1,637 spectators — most of them cheering for the host school Vikings — and walked out unscathed en route to Evansville, Indiana.

'Cats beat Augustana for third straight regional title, trip to Elite Eight

"It's pretty impressive; it really is," Northwest coach Ben McCollum said. "Tournaments involve a lot of luck, and (the players) just keep doing it. I wish I could say it was all coaching, but it's the furthest thing from it."

Northwest (31-5) found itself in a hole not too long after opening the game with a 9-4 lead. The Bearcats, for the second game in a row, had to use the first few minutes to search for an offensive rhythm without Hudgins being heavily involved.

He was held to a season-low 7 points during Northwest's win over MIAA foe Washburn in the semifinals, because the Ichabods' plan was to take him out of the game. Hudgins, McCollum and the rest of the 'Cats knew Augustana (26-4) was planning to do the same thing.

It worked, too — at least for a little bit. The Vikings responded to Northwest's early scoring spurt with a 13-3 run, one that gave them a 19-12 advantage with roughly 10 minutes left before halftime.

That's when Hudgins decided he was sure of just that one thing.

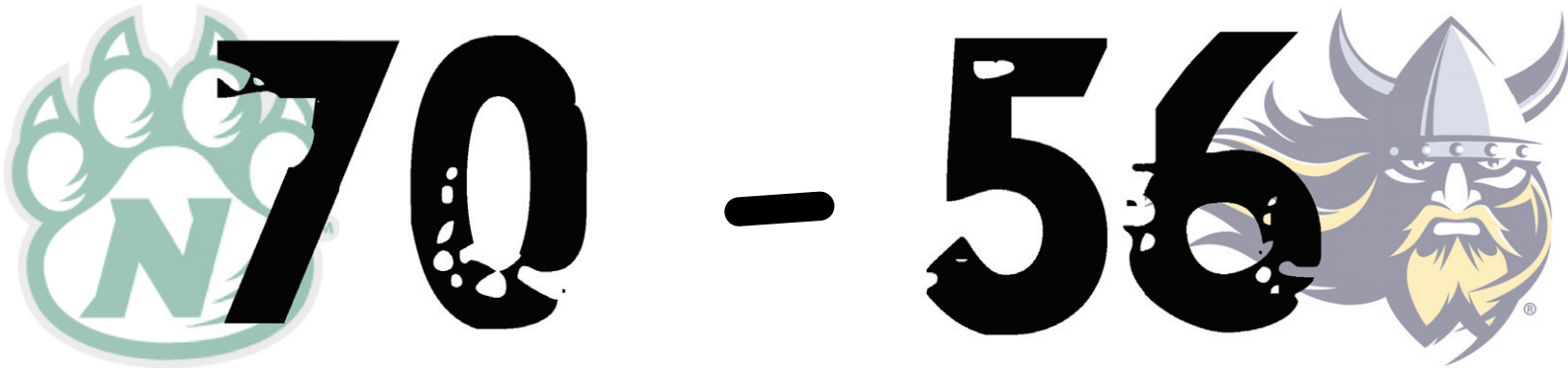
He caught fire within the final 10 minutes of the first half, using that time to go 6-for-7 from beyond the arc with 18 points. But perhaps there wasn't a shot that personified his performance more than the triple he drained before the break to give Northwest a 34-25 lead.

There wasn't much more than three seconds left when he let the inbounds pass roll past halfcourt, where he picked it up before using a crossover to set up a step-back 3-pointer at the buzzer.

"I mean, I looked over to the bench, and Mac said, 'You've got three dribbles,'" said Hudgins, who was named the Most Outstanding Player of the Central Region Tournament. "I just took three dribbles and threw it up there. It so happened to go in."

Part of Northwest's turnaround in the first half was the substitution of redshirt freshman guard Mitch Mascari for redshirt freshman guard Isaiah Jackson, who was in the Bearcats' starting lineup. Jackson, along with redshirt freshman guard Byron Alexander, aren't exactly known as being sharpshooters.

SEE ELITE | A8



**BEARCATS**  
STUDENT  
DISCOUNTS

Show your Bearcat Card to get these amazing deals ALL YEAR LONG!

**\$6** ASIAN  
2 ENTRÉE MEAL with bearcat card

**10% OFF**  
Any MENU  
ITEM FROM OUR  
MARKET GRILLE  
with bearcat card

**\$6** Any SINGLE  
SUSHI ROLL  
with bearcat card  
RETAIL UP TO \$12!

**HyVee**  
EMPLOYEE OWNED

**5% OFF** WITH YOUR  
BEARCAT CARD